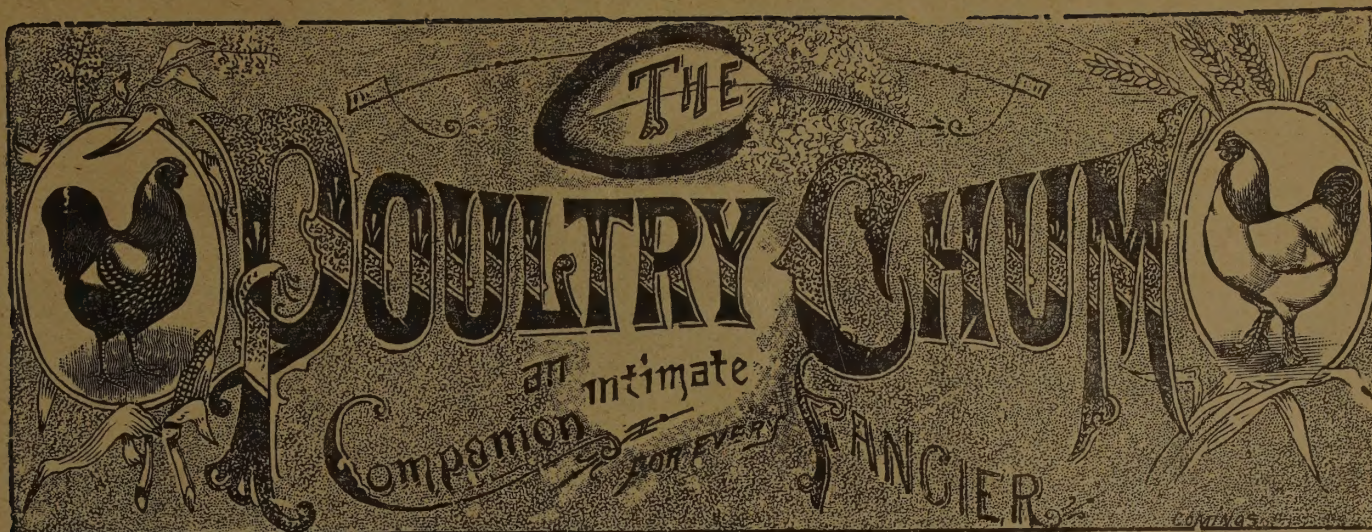




Vol. 14.

DE KALB, ILL., DECEMBER, 1897.

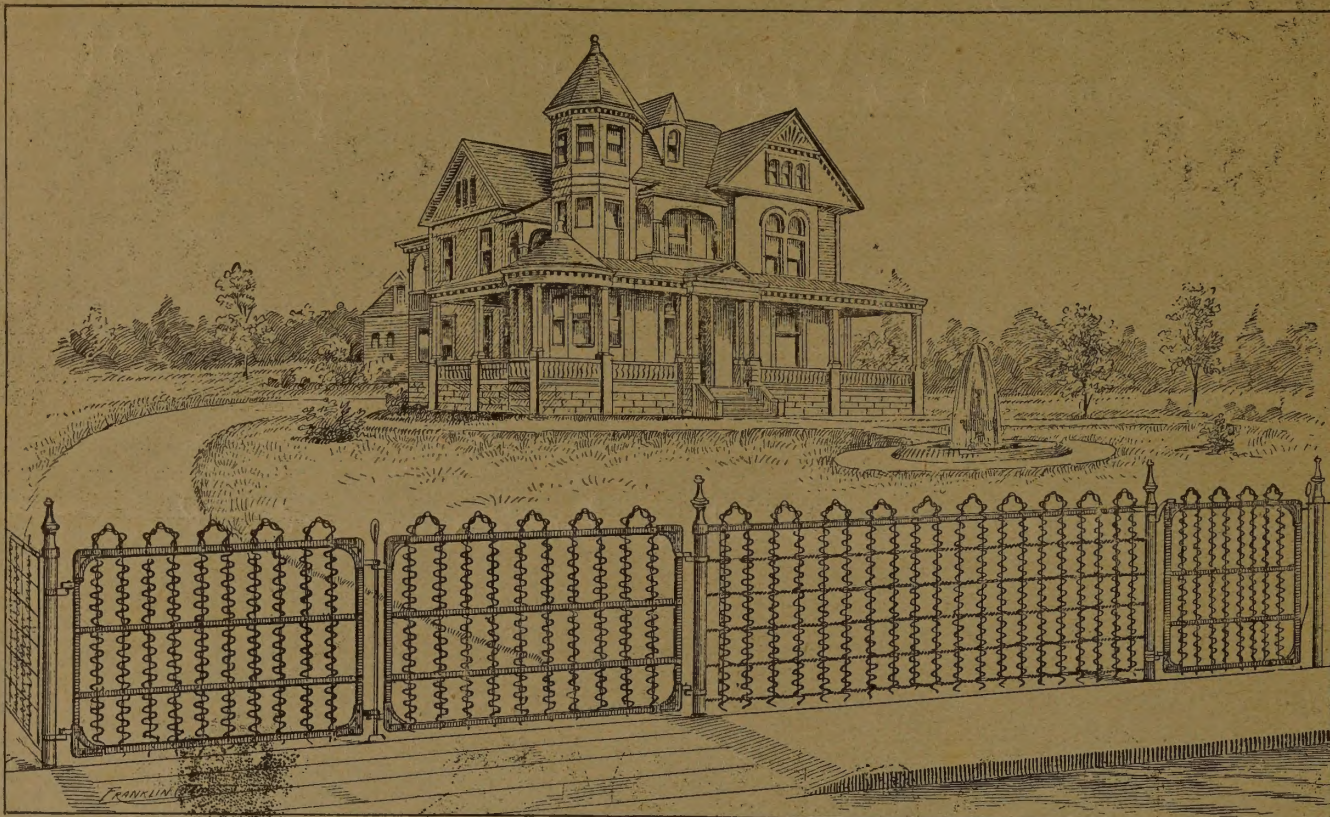
No. 12.



PLYMOUTH ROCKS

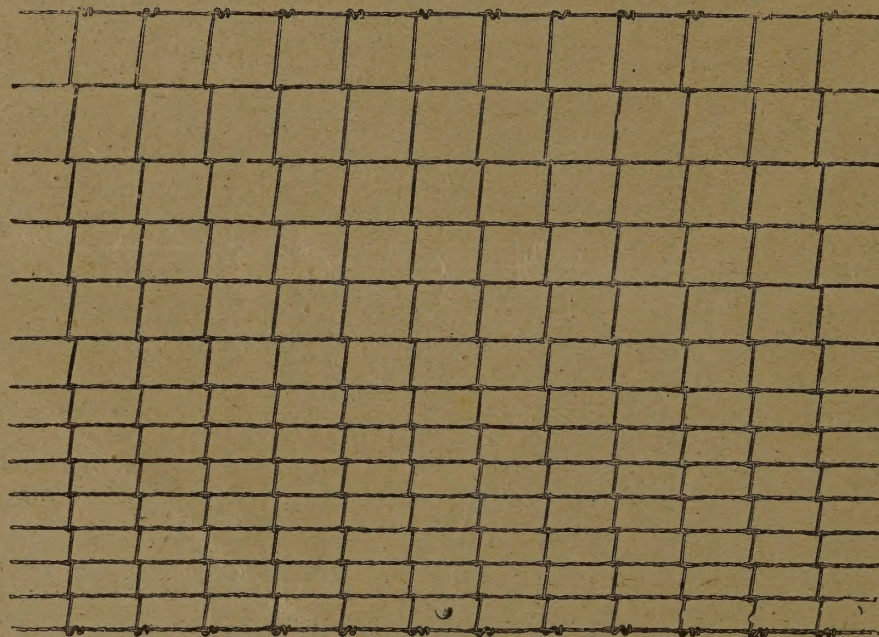
While the new breeds are booming, the Plymouth Rock is solidly engrafting itself in the affections of such people of utilitarian views about poultry. Few of the many thousands who breed Plymouth Rocks have found fault with them on the score of utility. Some few who were disappointed in getting exhibition birds may have put them to one side for something new. Those who change because they are hard to breed to feather and markings will find the new breeds about as hard to manage and no way superior, if at all equal. The Plymouth Rock combines as many good points as the best of our most improved breeds. They are large, heavy and a good table fowl, and fill a void between the Asiatics and the smaller breeds. The demand in our markets for a compact fowl having a close grained and golden yellow skin, clean leg, small bone, and to average from six to eight pounds dressed, brought out this breed to popular notice as filling such requirements. Besides good flesh, they have the additional qualities of prolificness and hardiness, united with constitutional vigor and docility. They are handsome if we look to the coloring and barring of the feathers, with the eye of a true artist.

Steel Web Picket Lawn Fence.



We show on this page our steel web picket fence erected on steel posts with steel top rail; also steel frame walk gate and double drive gate. Excels in neatness and beauty any wrought iron fence produced today, yet the cost is no more than a fence made of wood. If in need of fencing for yards, lawns, cemeteries or park inclosures we can satisfy you better at less cost than any other concern. We also manufacture a complete line of field and hog fence and the best and only good poultry fence now made. Our 40-page catalogue, giving full particulars, mailed free.

Regular Cabled Field and Hog Fence.



This cut represents our Regular Cabled Field and Hog Fence Wire, unequalled by any line of fence yet offered to the public; containing more horizontal cables than any other fence and stays of heavier wires. No fence has ever been offered that has grown so rapidly in demand or given such general satisfaction.

Our Special Field and Hog Fencing also merits the inspection and attention of every user of wire fencing

De Kalb Fence Co.. De Kalb, Ill.

THE POULTRY CHUM.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO POULTRY CULTURE.

Vol. 14.

DE KALB, ILLINOIS, DECEMBER, 1897.

No. 12.

How to Produce Eggs.

To the farmer who keeps his small flock of hens, how to make them produce eggs is the most important consideration. This is not as easy a matter as one would suppose. It is true that hens will lay a sufficient number of eggs during the spring and early summer months. This being the natural laying season, they seem to accomplish big results with but little care and at small expense. Hens are kept on farms as a rule for the purpose of consuming the table scraps and general waste. In other words they take the place of a hog. Unless some animal of this kind is at hand the refuse must be buried or it will become offensive. Eggs obtained during the natural laying season are not a source of very great profit; as the market price is usually very low; especially is this true of the last two or three years, yet the cost of production is so slight that even six to ten cents a dozen is profitable. The farmers' usual system of caring for his flock is not as good as it might be, oftentimes poor feeding. The wagon shed for shelter is about all the housing they get, if they get any at all; occasionally a hen house is supplied. The flock is left pretty much to itself and the age of the individual specimens seems to cut but little concern. When cold weather sets in the greater majority of them are left to roost in the trees or on fences, and in justice to themselves in return for this they should not lay an egg. But if they do lay, the farmer is delighted, and if they don't it apparently matters little to him, as he is usually somewhat indifferent.

The egg farmer, however, who makes a business of producing eggs during the entire year, treats the matter in an entirely different light and uses a regular system.

Let us look into the system and see how hens can be kept so as to turn in a handsome profit at the end of the year.

In the first place proper shelter to protect them from the elements of the weather, and especially the northers we are subject to in this country, must be supplied. Not an expensive, close built house, which is usually a death trap to poultry. The next important thing is regularity of feeding. A great many ideas conveyed in this article we get from Country Gentleman; they fit our ideas exactly from actual experience of our own.

It matters but little what variety or breed is kept, so long as their nature is studied.

That thoroughbreds are better than mongrels must be admitted at the start. That heavy breeds like Cochins, Brahmas, Langshans and Plymouth Rocks require different care from Leghorns, Minorcas and Hamburgs must also be understood. That one breed may lay more than another is of no consequence, as they will all lay eggs enough if properly fed and cared for. We will commence at the beginning and consider the newly hatched chicks. They should be fed little at a time and often. This will keep them growing and if given plenty of exercise to work off the heavy feeding they will mature rapidly. With newly hatched chicks it is usually the "survival of the fittest."

As to what feed is the best it is hard to say. Whatever agrees with them and makes them grow is the best food. Nearly every breeder has his own ideas on this subject, and so long as it works satisfactorily that is all that is necessary.

After the pullets are large enough to be separated from the cockerels, then is the time to push them for egg production. Muscle and flesh forming food is what they require to bring them to maturity.

A regular system of feeding is the only method by which a continuous supply of eggs can be had. On the other hand erratic feeding will upset the egg production of any flock. I believe in the morning mash 365 days in the year, but not as a full meal. In winter hot water and in summer cold should be used in mixing, and that is the only difference. The two important ingredients of this mash are bran, ground corn and oats; to this may be added middlings, meat, boiled vegetables, steamed clover hay, one at a time in summer, or in winter all together—it would make no difference so long as the mash was well mixed and formed a balanced ration. At night, grain, either wheat, oats, corn or barley, fed separately or any two together, and all they will eat up clean. Two feeds a day is quite sufficient for any laying flock, except that cabbage and cut green bone can be fed at noon every other day.

Pullets of the heavy breeds should lay in seven or eight months from hatch, and smaller breeds, such as Leghorns, etc., should lay in five to six months, according to the care and attention they receive.

Do not forget to provide dust boxes for your poultry.

Pure Bred Poultry on the Farm.

Fowls have been neglected so long on farms that it is a difficult matter to change this indifference for interest. We can hardly blame them for not taking any amount of interest in what is known as the farmer's hens. They are certainly not picturesque, and with the exception of the varied and oftentimes beautiful plumage of the males, are not attractive to look at. Their useful qualities should not as a rule endear them to the farmer, for they are decidedly at a low ebb in this particular. Yet it is a very hard task to convince our farmer friends that their flocks can be improved. To them the neglected hen will always remain the only animal on the farm to suffer this neglect, and if they are persuaded to improve the quality we fear the same neglect will continue.

The first step which some of them have been induced to take in the way of improvement is by buying a thoroughbred male of some known egg-producing variety, for eggs are the height of the farmer's poultry ambition, and crossing them with the common dunghills. This has often given them most excellent results, a decided increase in eggs and a better type of market fowl. But the benefits of the first season have not been appreciated and the crossing has not been renewed, and the result is back they go to common dunghills and the thoroughbred male is lost in the mixture of the succeeding seasons. The common excuse is lack of time to "bother with the hens." Of course those offering such an excuse and slowing so much indifference are almost hopeless, and perhaps it were better to pass them by; yet as the constant dripping wears away the stone, we are convinced that many a farmer's stock of today is a great improvement on those of ten years ago. The vast strides made in general poultry culture have been the means of distributing a better quality of fowl throughout the country, and the farmer has perhaps unintentionally collected a better laying flock.

Cannot we get a step further and induce them to adopt thoroughbreds entirely? Let us show where they are superior. In the first place it stands to reason that any strain of fowls carefully bred and with, we will say, the object of egg-production as most important, can be brought to a higher degree of excellence in this particular than the common every-day dunghill. Now can the

farmer understand this reason? With him "seeing is believing." Therefore let him buy a small flock of ten thoroughbred Plymouth Rocks, the culls of some first class breeder, which can be had at this season at a reasonable figure. Let him run them side by side with his dunghills and judge for himself. Of course we expect they will be as much neglected as his common flock, but still a neglected thoroughbred will do better than a neglected dunghill.

In the second place he will have a better carcass to offer in market, and he will raise a better and healthier and finer lot of chickens. At last, and by no means least, he can offer settings at a price above the market quotations for fresh eggs and at the season when the latter are at the cheapest price.

Are not these reasons sufficient? Is there not more chance for profit in such a fowl than in the scrubs and runts he is accustomed to? And bear in mind, my farmer friend, that except for the original cost of your thoroughbreds their care and feed will be no more than on your dunghills.

Cracked Corn for Laying Hens.

I have had some experience in feeding corn, both to growing chicks and laying hens, but have never fully succeeded. One of the secrets in making hens lay is to compel them to work for a living. Such is difficult when corn is used, for it requires only a comparatively few kernels to satisfy a hen's appetite, and hence she has no further need for activity.

I have fed some wheat and have always met with the best success. The grain was generally scattered in some kind of litter so that the fowls had to scratch for it. To this fact I ascribe the greater part of my success with wheat. As a general thing wheat is considered better for laying fowls than corn, but I think this result is due to the manner in which it is fed. It is difficult to scatter corn so as to keep the hens busy for any length of time. With wheat it is quite different, especially with the cheaper grade generally fed to poultry.

Working on this idea I have tried cracking corn and feeding as much as I have used wheat. The first cracked corn was used about the first of December and I have continued it since with the best of success. So far as egg production is concerned it seems to be filling the bill exactly. I can recommend it to anyone wanting a cheap, practical food. When wheat was from 40 to 50 cents a bushel cracked corn might not have been worth bothering with, but since the price of wheat has doubled, it has put a different phase on the question.

An average kernel of corn cracked in three or four pieces seems to answer the purpose best. If it is cracked finer there is apt to be considerable waste. The average farm feed mill ought to grind the kernel to such fineness. I have noticed a round kernel cracks more satisfactory than a flat one.

Developing the Pullets.

Those who are raising pullets for layers should carefully distinguish between the food that is necessary for making cockerels fit for the market and that which will develop the laying pullets. A large percentage of layers are both temporarily and permanently injured in ability to produce eggs by the improper course of feeding which many poultry keepers employ. We rarely see large quantities of corn or corn meal given to colts or calves to assist in bringing them to maturity. Oats, bran and clover are considered, and wisely so, as best for this purpose. When food is given in excess to a growing animal, not only is the food wasted, but its digestive apparatus is weakened. Since, when an almost exclusive diet of corn is fed, the growing chick must eat excessive quantities of it to get enough of the small percentage of muscle-making material which it contains. Growing young fowls do not readily fatten, but as the pullets become somewhat matured there is a tendency to take on internal fat; only a hindrance to egg production. Corn should be fed sparingly in the poultry yard, both in summer and winter.

The growing pullet should be fed solely with the view to development of her frame and egg-producing organs, and for this purpose the same food that is best for laying hens is best for her, since growth is regarded in both cases—in one the growth of the egg, and in the other of bone and tissue. The chicks and laying stock can thus be fed with the same ration, which will prove a matter of economy in labor. When the cockerels become troublesome to the pullets, they can be separated and fed separately on the same food, or on a diet composed largely of corn meal if it is desired to fatten them.

There is nothing better for growth and perfect development than milk, oatmeal, chopped clover and bran. Every element required is contained in these, and in such proportions that the digestive organs will not be over-taxed by needless effort to secure enough of what is needed. It is preferable to feed the milk in the form of sour curd, taking care of course that it is not kept too long after becoming sour. In this form it is highly relished by fowls and seems to be assimilated with less liability to cause bowel trouble. It is best to grind the oats, as they can be digested with less tax on the bird.

The clover is best cut fine with a clover cutter, or by running it several times through an ordinary hay cutter, then mixed with an equal bulk of oatmeal and bran. This should be thoroughly moistened with boiling water, and allowed to stand during the day or over night, if possible, as it will then be so softened as to be readily digested. The clover may be cut and used in its green state or cut when in blossom and cured out in the sun for use in winter. It

is one of the best foods for growth, but on account of its bulky character must be fed in connection with more contracted foods of a similar nature.

In addition to those foods an occasional ration of cooked vegetables of various kinds will be beneficial. If confined in yards a little ground meat or lean scraps from the butcher's shop, boiled and mixed with their soft food, should be given them.

Cleanliness in the Poultry.

Poultry writers are continually talking about cleanliness in the hen house. This means a good deal; so much so that very few carry it out. And as half-way work in this cause is worse than nothing, here is where many fail. Cleansing means that all the excrement should be removed daily, the nests renewed often and the roosts dosed with some vermin destroyer and all the cracks and corners treated with the same. A man should decide when he starts in whether he can and will do this or not, and if he trusts to this treatment he must do it thoroughly. If he cannot do this it will not answer simply to neglect it, but he must adopt the other method, which is much cheaper and fully as sure, and that is to give them dry dust enough to play in and let them make the dust fly enough to fill all the cracks and cover the roosts and smother the lice in that way. Lice is the great drawback and constant terror, and if dirt will keep them off, let the fowls have dirt.

Temperature for Chicks.

A very important point in the artificial rearing of chickens is to avoid putting such a number together as will cause any amount of crowding and crushing possible. If all in the brooder be the same age, it is well to keep the temperature at 90 degrees for the first week and afterwards to diminish it gradually at the rate of about five degrees a week. This is the course of treatment to which a large brood of chickens under the hen are subjected, as it very soon becomes out of her power to afford direct body contact to many of the fast growing chicks. They get as much heat as there is to be found under the outstretched wings, but few of them can be directly in contact with her breast. At 90 degrees we mean that the thermometer placed for some time in direct contact with the under surface of the rearing mother or between the hot water tank and the flannel beneath it should register 90 degrees.

One kind of food supplies the muscles, another bone, another fatty tissue, another feeds the brain, etc., and it is only by supplying a variety of food to the system that the constant waste of the body can be repaired and good health maintained. Similarly with fowls. You can easily understand that fowls fed on corn alone cannot lay eggs, for they are not made that way.

Poultry Notes.

It pays to feed meal to the hens two or three times a week, as it takes the place of insect food.

Light in the poultry house is an absolute necessity, and the inmates must have it to be in healthy and cheerful condition, for fowls will not thrive in the dark any more than do plants.

Unless you can be patient, unless you are satisfied to reap your reward after your work is done, the same as in any other business, our advice to you is, let breeding of poultry alone.

There must not be lavish feeding one day and frugality or rather stinginess the next. This is poor policy, and the breeder who follows this course will be sure to not study the well being of his stock.

Fowls like to bask in the winter sun and in the dust bin where they can stretch and enjoy themselves comfortably. It is like new life to them, confined as they are to four blank walls for four or five months of cold and dreary weather.

We must feed some time before eggs will come. Any breed of hens will consume a large quantity of feed before beginning to lay, but after having once begun they will not require or even consume as much food. When laying their craving is for vegetables, animal substances, crushed bones and shell matter.

The fact is very suggestive that the egg supply falls off most rapidly when the days are shortening, and is smallest always during the months when the hours of sunshine are the fewest. No preparation for getting eggs in winter is complete that does not provide, besides warmth and good feeding, a plentiful supply of sunshine.

There is one advantage in keeping guinea fowls with other poultry, as their loud noise frightens away hawks and other enemies. Guinea fowl meat is dark, but has a gamey flavor liked by those who have a fancy for game. As egg producers guinea fowls are excellent, though their habit of roaming causes many of their eggs to be lost.

The observant breeder should often visit his fowl house to watch and note down the earliest and steadiest layers among the most promising pullets, and also watch for every characteristic point as it develops for either good or bad. There is much to learn by close observation of the breeding fowls. It is poor policy to be in a hurry or to mate them in a haphazard way. Fowls have their faults as well as other animals, and it would be wrong to mate those that show

bad habits or that are weak, diseased or imperfect in structure or organism.

Fowls cannot bear to be massed together, it matters not how thrifty they may be when gathered from their runs, a few weeks of close cooping will show in their looks, movements and laying. They will become dumbish and sickly, the cocks will lose their natural vigor and amative propensities, the pullets will cease to lay, lice will hold high carnival on their bodies, and serious loss in money and future prospects will inevitably result.

Air-slacked lime scattered about the house or yards will prevent diseases in many instances and always prove of benefit in any case. Vermin is destroyed by the dusting of roosts, walls and floors with this penetrating, purifying powder, while in the outer runs the earth is cleansed of much of the poisonous quality by use of lime. No harm comes from the lime habit, but on the contrary much good may be effected by contracting it. Cleanliness is the keynote of the poultryman's success.

Kerosene as a Vermin Destroyer.

Whenever kerosene is used on a fowl it should be mixed thoroughly with lard or sweet oil. Kerosene is too harsh for direct application on the head, legs or skin. The oil can be used in the cracks of the sheds or on the roosts, but even then an emulsion is safer, as the oil renders the woodwork more inflammable. There is no more certain destroyer of vermin in their free state than an application composed largely of kerosene. The following is an emulsion of this kind that has never been improved on:

Take one pound of hard soap, shave it and dissolve in three pints of boiling water. While boiling hot remove it from the fire to avoid danger, add three pints of kerosene and churn the mixture briskly. Churn or agitate for fifteen minutes until a thick cream results. Be sure that the kerosene and soapy substance is well mixed by churning. Kerosene will not mix with water, but forms an emulsion with milk or strong soapsuds. If preferred, a gill of crude carbolic acid may be added to the kerosene, as the crude acid also forms an emulsion with the soap. Now add twelve quarts of hot or cold water or soapsuds to the cream, stirring well. You now have a cheap lice destroyer which may be sprayed over every part of the poultry house. For dipping hens add twenty quarts of water, but care must be taken that the soap and kerosene are well mixed by churning, as there must be no free kerosene. The cost of the foregoing twelve or twenty quarts of mixture should not exceed ten cents and it answers all the purposes of pure kerosene. It destroys all kinds of lice and can be applied with a sprayer in five minutes.

Preserving Eggs

Having filled a cleaned keg or barrel with fresh eggs, cover the eggs with cold salicylic water. The eggs must be kept down by a few small boards floating on the water, and the whole covered with a cloth to keep the dust out. If set in a cool place the eggs will keep fresh for months, but must be used as soon as taken out of the brine. To make the salicylic solution dissolve salicylic acid, which costs about \$3 a pound, in boiling water, one teaspoonful of acid to the gallon. It is not necessary to boil all the water as the acid will dissolve in less quantity and the rest may be added to the solution cold. The solution of brine should at no time come in contact with any metal. In a clean, airy cellar one brine is sufficient for three months or more, otherwise it should be renewed oftener. For that purpose the kegs should have a wooden spigot to draw off the liquid and replenish the vessel. Butter kneaded in the same solution and packed tight in clean stone jars will keep fresh the whole winter, but must be covered with muslin saturated in the water, renewing it sometimes. Cover the jars with blotting paper saturated with glycerine. Salicylic is harmless and yet one of the best and certainly most pleasant disinfectants in existence, with no color or taste. The water is an excellent tooth wash and the best gargle to prevent diphtheric contagion.

Things That Don't Pay.

Keeping too many fowls in too small quarters.

Keeping two or more breeds when you are only posted on one.

To get rid of your best breeders. Always keep the best at home.

To dose or doctor fowls in health to keep them healthy. "What fools ye mortals be."

To pose as a judge or critic, when your faculties lead you to the plow.

To send out inferior stock. Better use the hatchet freely and not kill your reputation.

To fail to advertise. The man who keeps his name before the public, year in and year out, gets there.

To visit the shows and tell the people you have better ones at home and that you can beat the prize winners, etc. If you really think so, just trot them out and let the judges settle the matter.

To breed from pullets, where healthy, strong chicks are wanted, or from old cocks with old hens—one just as bad as the other. Better mate a strong yearling cock on two-year old hens. This mating pays best.

All hens that have commenced to moult and which began as early as August may be retained as winter layers, as they will finish the moulting process by November, which gives them time to get in good condition before the cold weather sets in.

THE POULTRY CHUM.

PUBLIS'D THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH

BY POULTRY CHUM PUBLISHING CO.

DE KALB, ILL., DECEMBER, 1897.

Subscription Price.—25 Cents per year in advance. Single copies 3 cts. Subscriptions can commence with any month.

Advertisements in the POULTRY CHUM must be paid for in advance. The low price at which they are inserted makes it impossible to do otherwise.

We invite Correspondence on all subjects pertaining to poultry keeping. Send in your experience.

Entered at the postoffice at De Kalb, Illinois, as second class matter.

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YEARLY RATE 5 CENTS PER AGATE LINE.

(14 lines to an inch, single column.)

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This notice marked denotes that your subscription has expired. Please renew your subscription for another year.

CLUB LIST.

Read carefully this list. We can send you the POULTRY CHUM and papers named below at the following prices. The POULTRY CHUM one year, and—

The Poultry Keeper.....	\$.50
The Prairie Farmer.....	\$1.00
The American Agriculturist.....	\$1.60
The Poultry Herald.....	\$.50
Western Garden and Poultry Journal..	\$.50
Poultry Topics.....	\$.50
The Fanciers' Journal (weekly).....	\$2.20
The Farmers' Monthly.....	\$.50
Reliable Poultry Journal.....	\$.50
The Western Poultry News.....	\$.50
Poultry Monthly.....	\$1.10
The American Poultry Journal.....	\$.60
The American Poultry Advocate.....	\$.50

Chicago, Just Before the Battle.

The National Fanciers' association of Chicago again calls the attention of the fraternity to the fact that it has secured excursion rates on all railroads entering Chicago.

In Chicago bill contracts have been made for bill posting which will eclipse all previous efforts of poultry shows.

The daily papers have promised liberal support in their news columns, and already each week sees the latest news of the show published in either the morning or the evening papers.

There will undoubtedly be a tremendous

attendance of city and suburban people, and the sales which were large last year will be larger this year.

As has been stated before in these columns the bureau of publicity, 110 Franklin street, Chicago, is organized for the purpose of giving out information in regard to the show, hotels, boarding houses, rates of fare, etc., and it will be pleased to render this service to any who may ask it.

The premium list was published December 15 and contains many valuable prizes, both of cash and silver cups. A leading feature of the prizes will be the \$60-silver cup, given on pigeons by C. D. Paddock.

Robert Joos of Peoria, Ill., has been engaged to assist Mr. Ewald in judging and to take care of the Magpie class in particular.

The American Fantail club will probably meet at Chicago and it is thought that it will select F. S. Gilbert as judge.

The American Leghorn club has offered a silver cup on Brown Leghorns exhibited by its members, and the National Fanciers' association of Chicago has duplicated this offer on White Leghorns.

Buff Plymouth Rock men should be out in force for the prize list is large and long.

H. L. Keller, superintendent of pet stock, reports great interest in his department, and the exhibition will undoubtedly be a large one.



We have had the pleasure of seeing and inspecting the M. M. S. Poultry Fence manufactured by the Union Fence company, as shown by the above cut, which represents the fence exactly as it is when put up on the posts. You will note that the body wires of the fence run parallel to each other and consequently there can be no contraction or drawing together of the fence when erecting it. One of the strong features of this fence is that it always retains its height and shape, as the horizontal wires will not permit it to sag and fold upon itself between posts until it is from six inches to a foot lower than full height, as is the case with the old style poultry netting.

It is to be seen from the construction of this fence that it requires but very few posts

and neither top or bottom rail; therefore it is much cheaper than any other poultry fence yet put on the market, and will give better satisfaction. For turning small chickens this fence is equal to the 1½-inch mesh made in the old diamond shaped fashion. The horizontal lines for the first foot in this fence are 1½ inches apart, the next foot two inches apart and above that three inches.

If any of our readers are in need of a first-class poultry fence, which is neat as well as serviceable, they can do no better than to write to the Union Fence company of De Kalb, Ill. This company also manufactures a line of fencing for all kinds of stock, as well as ornamental yard and cemetery fence, gates, posts, etc.

Norwood Park Poultry Yards.

NINE PRIZES WON

At the Chicago Show, January, 1897, on my Partridge Cochins and Light Brahmas. 1st on Partridge Cochins Breeding Pen; 14 Light Brahmas scored from 92½ to 94. Send for illustrated circular.

J. B. FOOT, Norwood Park, Ill.

EGGS

From 15 leading varieties of high-class Poultry. Stock and eggs for sale. Prices low for high quality of stock. Handsome 20 page catalogue free. We are bound to please you.

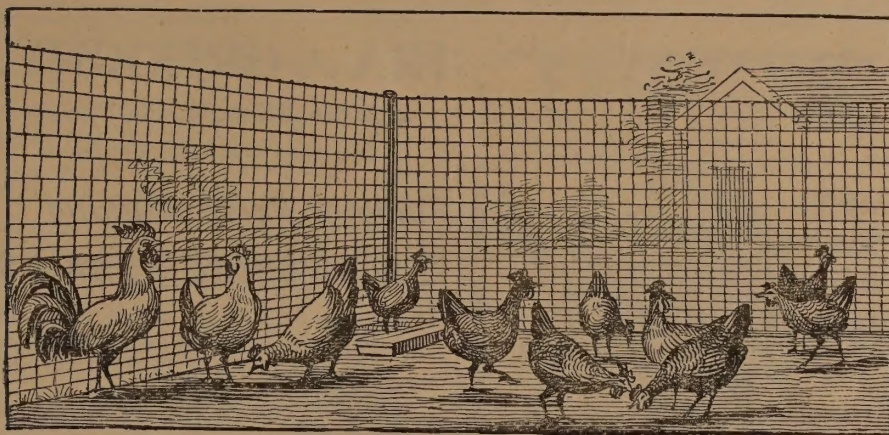
W. H. & F. L. MURRAY,
Calamine, Wis.
Mention Poultry Chum.

GOLDEN WYANDOTTES,

Barred Plymouth Rocks, and Golden Polish.

At Rockford, Jan 21 to 25, I won on Golden Wyandottes, 1st on breeding pen score 186½; 1st on cock, 93; 1st on chl., 92; 1st on hen, 95½; 1st on pullet, 93. On Golden Polish, 2d on breeding pen 1st on chl., 1st and 2d on pullets. Eggs \$2 per 15. Lambert's death to Lice, 40c. for 15 oz. box postpaid.

EDWIN M. LIVINGSTON, Capron, Ill.



We desire to call the attention of our many readers to the advertisement of the De Kalb Fence company, showing their cabled poultry, garden and rabbit fence. It has met with such great favor for its good qualities that we desire to have all our readers thoroughly acquainted with this line of fencing. It is many times heavier than the ordinary light poultry netting, but the manufacturers claim that a fence built of it will actually cost less money, because it requires but few posts and neither top or bottom rail to keep it in shape. It will turn all ordinary stock raised on the farm and has the life of the best farm fence made.

The time of the year is now at hand when all poultry raisers should begin to look around where they can procure their requirements to the best advantage. Fencing is a very important item in the poultry industry, and for durability and effectiveness we are not acquainted with any line that gives the satisfaction of the fence manufactured by this company. It will cost you a postal card to write for their catalogue, which they will mail free, and it may save you many dollars. They also manufacture a full line of field and hog fencing, law fencing, gates, posts, etc. Address De Kalb Fence Co., De Kalb, Ill.

Dates of Poultry Shows.

Dec. 28-Jan. 1—Springfield, O. Springfield Fanciers' Ass'n. W. H. Holmes sec'y.
Dec. 28-Jan. 1—Erie Pa. N. W. Pa. P. and P. S. Ass'n. A. E. Blethen, sec'y.
Dec. 29-Jan. 1—Mansfield, O. Mansfield P. P. and P. S. Ass'n. C. W. Etz, sec'y.
Dec. 29-Jan. 1—New Haven, Conn. New Haven P. Ass'n. N. D. Forbes, sec'y.
Dec. 30-Jan. 4—Ottawa, Kan. Franklin Co. P. Ass'n. Mrs. D. F. Hesser, sec'y.
Jan. 2-7—Geneseo, Ill. Geneseo Poultry show. Wm. G. Warnock, sec'y.
Jan. 3-8—Buffalo N. Y. Erie Co. P. Breeders' Ass'n. E. C. Pease, sec'y.
Jan. 3-8—Detroit, Mich. Michigan State P. and P. S. Ass'n. F. W. McKinzie, sec'y.
Jan. 4-7—Canton, O. Canton P. Ass'n. Wm. Friedman, sec'y.
Jan. 4-7—Carey, O. Carey P. and P. S. Ass'n. T. W. McClure, sec'y.
Jan. 4-8—Peoria, Ill. Peoria Feathered Stock Ass'n. T. A. Godel, sec'y.
Jan. 10-15—Rochester, N. Y. Rochester P. P. and P. S. Ass'n. J. J. Beveridge, sec'y.
Jan. 10-15—Indianapolis, Ind. Indiana State P. Ass'n. T. W. Pottage, sec'y.
Jan. 10-15—Rockford, Ill. Northern Illinois P. Ass'n. A. H. Carrier, sec'y.
Jan. 10-15—Cedar Rapids, Ia. Linn Co. P. Ass'n. C. H. Playter, sec'y.
Jan. 10-15—Louisville Ky. Kentucky State P. Ass'n. J. R. Mount, sec'y.
Jan. 10-17—Los Angeles Cal. Los Angeles Co. P. Ass'n. H. W. Kruckeberg, sec'y.
Jan. 11-15—Nashville, Tenn. Tennessee P. P. and P. S. Ass'n. J. M. Hopkins, sec'y.
Jan. 11-15—Washington C. H. O. Southern O. P. Ass'n. W. R. Dalbey, sec'y.
Jan. 12-15—Charlotte, N. C. Charlotte

P. and P. S. Ass'n. W. M. Barringer, sec'y.

Jan. 18-22—Boston, Mrs. A. R. Shary, sup't, Tau ton, Mass.

Jan. 24-29—Chicago, Ill. National Fanciers' Ass'n. C. S. Weaver, sec'y.

Jan. 31-Feb. 3—Henry, Ill. Illinois Valley P. Ass'n. A. G. Humphrey, sec'y.

Feb. 1-5—Bluffton, O. Consolidated P. Ass'n. D. J. Kohli, sec'y.

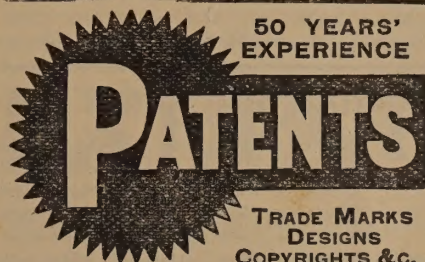
Feb. 2-6—New York, Madison Square Garden. H. V. Crawford, sec'y, Montclair, N. J.

Feb. 15-20—Washington, D. C. National P. and P. Ass'n. G. E. Howard, sec'y.

BARGAINS

in 20 varieties of Poultry. Mammoth Bronze and White Holland Turkeys, Toulouse Geese, Pekin Ducks, etc. If you are going to buy, it will pay you to get my prices. J. W. MARKS.

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Chicago and Detroit 1897

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I want every person interested in this popular and beautiful breed to send for our large 8-paged '97 circular, free, stamp accepted. I have one of the finest flocks in America. Prize winners for six years. Get my circular sure.

Eggs \$2 per 13 until July 30, '97.

GEO. S. BARNES,

Battle Creek, Mich.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

From pure bred Buff Leghorns (Arnold strain) exclusively. Eggs \$1.50 per 15; \$2.50 per 30. Stock for sale in fall.

H. P. LOHR, Jeannette, Pa.

BOX 284.

Have You Seen

The Red Pyle Leghorns? Imagine a male bird with a rich crimson back glistening like rubies, wings a combination of deep red, chestnut red and white, tail pure white. Female pure white, except breast, which is chestnut red and neck lemon yellow striped with white. Eggs \$3.00 per 13. My Barred Plymouth Rocks are "Zebra," "Royal Blue" and "Ringlet" strains. They have the "circular" barring so much admired by our breeders. My Brown and Buff Leghorns are as near perfection as has yet been produced. They are high scoring prize winners. Eggs \$2.00 per 15; \$3.50 for 30. Send for

O. P. GREER, Bourbon, Ind.

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"HORSE SHOE" POULTRY YARDS,

MRS. ANNA POLLARD,

Washington, Iowa.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Kerosene as a Medicine.

As a remedy for various poultry ailments kerosene is held in high favor, by a great many breeders. Those who have never put it to the test are inclined to doubt the virtues that are attributed to it by those who rely on it as a cure for so many of the diseases which afflict the denizens of the poultry yard. We confess that we have had less faith in it than have many of our friends and yet we are convinced that it is a valuable remedial agent that is applicable to a great variety of diseases. But like all other good things it must be used with judgment and discretion. Otherwise it will kill about as often as it will cure. We have seen it alleged by excellent authorities that corn soaked in kerosene will have a beneficial effect upon fowls suffering with colds in winter and which are threatened with roup. It will be understood, of course, that they must be thus fed occasionally and not every day. This is only one of the things for which kerosene is highly commended, but as it comes from such a reliable source we do not hesitate to advise our readers who have fowls afflicted in the way above described to cautiously put it to the test in this particular.—Exchange.

Cleaning the Poultry House.

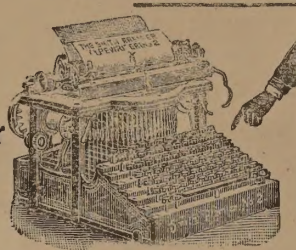
There is much less consideration given the roosts and nests than any other portion of the poultry house. With the desire to save labor the roosts are nailed to the walls and the nests are fastened in place so as to become part of the building itself, the consequence being that it is impossible to thoroughly clean the poultry house and rid it of vermin; for as long as there is a crack in which a louse can hide there will be liability of rapid increase of these pests, a single female laying enough eggs in a day to furnish the foundation for a million in a week.

Every roost should be level; that is, all the roosts should be the same height, and should be so constructed as to permit of being carried outside to be cleaned.

The nests should not be joined, but separate—soap boxes being excellent; open at the ends so as to compel the hens to walk in rather than to fly upon the nests from the top. If the roosts and nests are taken outside they should be lightly brushed with kerosene and a lighted match applied. The fire will run over the surface without doing any harm. The roosts should be treated in the same manner. If properly constructed the roosts and nests can be taken out and replaced in a few moments, leaving an empty poultry house which can be easily cleaned.

A simple means of preventing roup spreading among the flock through the drinking water is to prepare some tar water by stirring about one pint of tar in two gallons of water and decanting off the clear water as required for use.

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A few choice Stags warranted dead game and fast fighters; also high bred

English Grey Hound Pups,

And two fine Toy Cocker Spaniel Pups six months old. Prices on application.

J. W. Corkings, - DeKalb, Ill.

EGGS FOR SALE.
BLACK MINORCAS AND
CORNISH INDIAN GAMES
EXCLUSIVELY.

If you want first-class stock, please write, a postal card will do, I have a stamp.

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Choice Jerseys for Sale.

One bull calf 8 months old \$25.00. Two bull calves 2 and 3 weeks old bred from choicest butter strains. Heifer of the highest breeding. Pedigrees and prices on application. Shipped by express to any state. Address F. M. MUNGER, DeKalb, Ill.

Bronze Turkeys.

Barred & White P. Rocks, Light Brahmas, White Wyandottes, Buff Cochins, Buff Pekin Bantams and Embden Geese. Eggs in Season. Send for Catalogue and list of winners. Stamp accepted, Mention CHUM.

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For Sale

All varieties of Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Hamburgs, Leghorns, Minorcas, Cochins, Pekin Ducks and M. B. Turkeys. Also one 200 egg size Stahl Incubator, used once. Will sell or trade for work harness. Prompt shipment and honest treatment to all is our motto. Can furnish score cards with fowls.
RIVERSIDE POULTRY YARDS,
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Originator and Breeder of the

Famous Prize-Winning
YELLOWSHIRE STRAINS

Of Fine Exhibition Barred Plymouth Rocks, Bronze Turkeys, Mammoth Chinese Flk, Langshans, Pekin Ducks and Magnificent Pea Fowls,

Unequaled for their mammoth size, grand shape, superb color, fine comb and other fine exhibition points, and superior layers of fertile eggs.

The Yellowshire Breeds are the result of careful study in mating for finest points, without detriment to utility. The Barred Plymouth Rocks have been bred continuously since 1875, and my other breeds since 1885, regardless of labor or expense, upon farms allowing free range, and are a vigorous, prolific strain. The "Yellowshire" Strains are invincible in the show rooms, winning 90 per cent of all first prizes competed for since 1888.

First-Class Breeding Stock, mated, not akin, for sale at all times, at very low prices, considering quality of stock. Particular attention given to mating for best results in breeding, according to fine points and pedigree.

Eggs From my highest scoring flocks of Barred Plymouth Rocks and Black Langshans at only \$3 for 15; \$5 for 30; \$7 for 45; \$10 for 75; Pekin Ducks, \$2 for 12; \$3.50 for 24; \$5 for 36; Bronze Turkeys, \$5 for 12; \$8 for 24; \$12 for 36; Pea Fowl Eggs, \$1 each.

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Mica Crystal Grit

Rock Combination of Silica, Aluminum, Magnesium and 12 per cent. of Iron

For Poultry, Pigeons, Ducks, Geese, Turkeys and Birds. No more bowel disease, which is so fatal, and is largely caused by undigested food in the crop and gizzard, where Mica Crystal Grit is used. It makes red combs and increases the egg production one-half. Give it a trial. Put up in two sizes, fowl and chick size; 100 pounds in bag. Sent to any address, by freight, at \$1.00 per bag, \$4.00 for five bags. For sale by **POULTRY CHUM PUB. CO.,** DeKalb, Illinois

EGGS FOR HATCHING.

Partridge Wyandotte eggs . . . \$3.00 per 13
Buff Wyandotte eggs 2.00 per 13
Rose Comb E. Leghorn eggs . . . 1.50 per 13

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The Poultry Business.

During the last quarter of a century the poultry business has developed into the largest agricultural business of this country. The value of the poultry industry is underestimated by the American people, and it has not been until recently that attention has been called to the vast wealth that lies at our very door. Careful inquiry reveals the astounding fact that the United States, instead of producing more eggs than are required for home consumption, imports annually over \$2,000,000 worth of eggs. New York state and city consume about \$45,000,000 worth of eggs and poultry, and the population of both state and city is about 5,800,000. The United States, with a population of 63,000,000, will consume proportionately about \$495,000,000 worth of eggs and poultry a year. In order that the full value of the industry may be determined correctly we must add to the above \$63,000,000 for the value of the fowls retained for breeding and laying stock and about \$600,000 for fancy stock and eggs.

This shows the sum total of the industry to be over \$400,000,000. The following figures show the cash value of products in the United States: Cotton \$410,000,000, hay \$436,000,000, dairy products \$254,060,000, poultry and eggs \$560,000,000. While the poultry industry is larger than any of the others, it is the only agricultural product that we do not export. Our entire yield which is vastly insufficient to meet the demand is all consumed at home, and besides statistics show we import from foreign countries over 13,000,000 dozen eggs annually. Here we have so many natural advantages as compared with other countries our profit should far exceed them in proportionate value. These facts also show that the value of poultry and eggs exceeds even wheat, the greatest agricultural product of our land, by over \$72,000,000.

Clover Makes Eggs.

Clover is as much an egg producing material as it is a producer of milk. It is rich in nitrogen and mineral matter, providing the hens with substances that are derived from it in forms most suitable for the purpose desired. Lime is an essential substance in the production of eggs, and there are some who use oyster shells for supplying the hens with lime, but clover contains lime in soluble form and ready for use. The various grains are deficient in lime, and when the poultry receive no food but grain, it is impossible for the hens to lay. When the needed elements are supplied and the hens lay regularly, the carbonaceous matter is appropriated by the egg; but if the hens do not lay they become fat, and will remain in a condition which will bring on some disease.

Clover, by displacing grain, supplies the hens with substances that are lacking in grain, and also bulky food for heating.

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Accounts Can be kept by your Boy or Girl in the **Practical Book of Ready Reference and Accounts** as the pages are ruled and items printed; you have nothing left to do but put down your figures.

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Of the book can only be explained by mentioning the contents. It contains several pages of Items of Interest, Almanac for the Year, Tables, such as Ready Calculator, Wages, Interest Taxes, and how to find contents of Cisterns and Wells, Hay-mows and Stacks, Corn-cribs and Wagon-beds, Lumber, Wood, Stone, etc., also Important Points of General Law, Legal Forms for Drawing of Papers and a number of useful and interesting points which you will find of great value in your work. If you want this book, which is 8½x14, and will last in every day use for one year, send 10 cents in stamps to

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It has been proved over and over again that poultry must have exercise in order to do well. In many cases unlimited out door range cannot be afforded and yarding is the only way. The yards are bare and do not encourage exercise, therefore the scratching pile is depended upon by many poultry keepers. A great improvement over this has been invented. Send ten cents (silver) for full printed description with engravings. It will be the best expenditure of 10 cents you ever made in your life. ADDRESS

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Editor of "The Poultry World" for twenty-three years, author of "An Egg Farm," etc.

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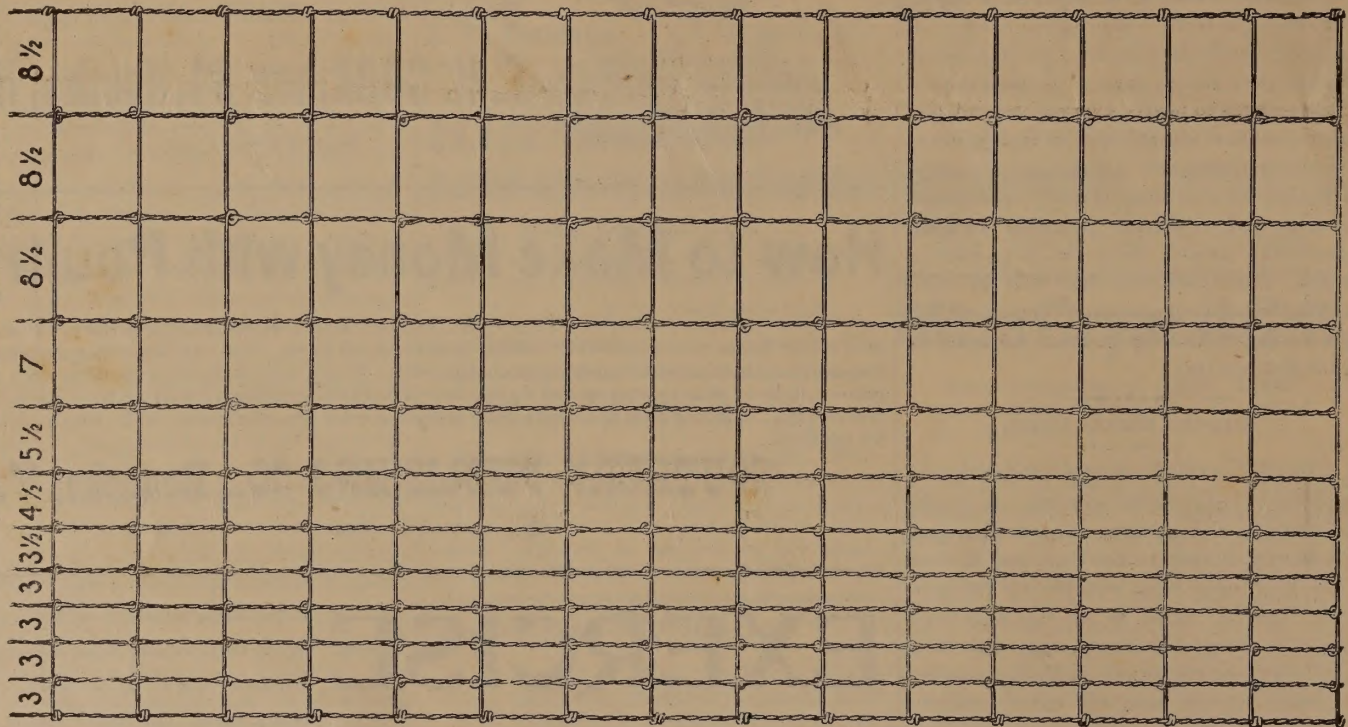
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Fifty Pairs Show Birds FOR THE WINTER FAIRS.

Bred From our Choicest Breeding Pens of 1897.



"Match Mark," Sweepstakes Cocker 1 at the Great Chicago Show, November, 1891.

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28 Years' Experience in Mating & Breeding

—We make a specialty of—

Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, Silver and White Wyandottes, White and Brown Leghorns and Bronze Turkeys.

Have won the Grand Sweepstakes at Chicago and Rock Island Shows, 1887 to 1894 on greatest number of birds scoring 90 points and over. 504 birds scoring 90 to 98½, a record never equaled by any breeder.

We shall, in the future as in the past, constantly try to please our friends and patrons and also spend much time and large amount of money each year in improving our stock of high, pure-bred fowls. Our matings for the past year have proved very satisfactory—as a reference to the scores of the young birds will show—and our breeding yards for the coming season are made up of the finest and most beautiful specimens

in each variety we have ever used. These yards are selected from *over one thousand fine birds*, and contain large, well matured and vigorous specimens, nearly all of them prize winners.

We pack eggs in new baskets, and in such a manner that they will go safely long distances by express, to any part of the continent and hatch just as well as at home. I guarantee eggs to arrive in good order. I have shipped eggs to nearly every state and territory, and in almost every case with good results, as I send eggs that are fresh and well fertilized by strong and vigorous male birds, and I know a good per cent. of them will hatch if proper care is given.

Eggs from Barred Plymouth Rocks, from such sires as "Match Mark," "Blue Prince 2d," "Hero Prince 2nd," "Sweepstakes 2d," "Blue Jay," \$4.00 per 13; \$7.00 per 26. Five other high scoring sires, such as "Prince Lea," "Champion Prince," "High Mark" and "Hustler," \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26. Eggs from White Plymouth Rocks, Silver and White Wyandottes, White and Brown Leghorns \$3.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 26. Turkey eggs 50 cents each, from eight special matings. Eggs in large numbers a matter of correspondence. Birds hatched from eggs from our matings have won the highest honors in every state in the Union.

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100 choice Breeding Toms and Hens \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 each. Trios and Breeding Pens mated for best results; not akin; my strains are noted for their full breasts, deep bodies and broad backs, their extra heavy bone, medium short legs, vigor and hardiness, and their brilliant and perfect marked plumage. All are first-class in every respect, from prize-winning birds, selected for their size, purity of color and exhibition qualities.

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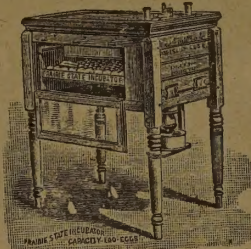
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in the poultry business comes from early maturity. **EARLY** chicks that make **EARLY PULLETS** that begin to **LAY EARLY** the eggs that produce **Early Broilers**. These things are easily possible to those who use the **RELIABLE INCUBATOR AND BROODER** necessary adjuncts to success in the poultry industry. Entirely automatic and self regulating. Sold under guaranty. In our Book on Incubation and Poultry which we send for 10 cents we tell all about it. **RELIABLE INCUB. & BROODER CO., QUINCY, ILL.**